Appendix "A"
Clean Version

A. In the Title

Please amend the title at the top of Page 1 of the Application to read "METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR DETECTING SIGNALS IN BINDING ASSAYS USING MICROPARTICLES."

B. In the Specification

Please delete the paragraph on Page 13, line 27 through Page 14, line 11. Please insert the following replacement paragraph:

Nucleic acid hybridization buffers that may be used include phosphate and TRIS buffers, for example, at a pH of about 6 to 8. In one embodiment, a standard saline phosphate ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid ("SSPE") buffer is used. An exemplary phosphate buffer includes: 0.06M H_2PO_4/HPO_4, 1M Na^+, 0.006M EDTA (ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid), 0.005% of the generic product octylphenol ethylene oxide condensate sold under TRITON X-100, as described by Sigma, at a pH of about 6.8, referred to herein as "6XSSPE-T". In one preferred embodiment, in a nucleic acid hybridization assay, a sulfonate hybridization buffer is used, for example a buffer including 2-[N-morpholino]ethanesulfonic acid ("MES"). For example, the hybridization buffer may include about 0.01 M to about 2 M MES or more, *e.g.*, about 0.25 M MES, at a pH, for example, of about 6 to 7. In one embodiment, the MES buffer includes: 0.25M MES, 1M Na^+, and 0.005% of the generic product octylphenol ethylene oxide condensate sold under TRITON X-100, as described by Sigma, at a pH of about 6.7. The hybridization may be conducted, for example, at about 25 to 70°C, for example, about 45°C. Optionally, the buffer may be filtered prior to use, for example, through a 2 μm filter.